

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4979
19 May 1980

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COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meeting of 24 April 1980

Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 24 April 1980 under the Chairmanship of Mr. D. Newkirk (United States).
2. The Committee adopted procedures for the participation of observers (see Annex) and considered a number of specific points arising from these procedures.
3. The Committee heard general policy statements from a number of delegations as well as statements on steps taken by signatories to implement and administer the Agreement.
4. The Committee discussed procedures for notifications under the relevant Articles of the Agreement on the basis of a secretariat proposal, and agreed to review the operation of these procedures at its next meeting.
5. The Committee was in general agreement with a secretariat proposal relating to the avoidance of duplication with the work of international standardizing bodies and agreed to revert to this question at its next meeting.
6. The Committee examined the procedures for accession of non-contracting parties. It agreed on the general approach suggested in a paper circulated by the secretariat and asked the secretariat to present a more specific proposal in consultation with the Chairmen of other committees.
7. The Committee heard a statement from the Chairman regarding the procedures for circulation of documents. The Committee agreed that these procedures should be implemented: they would be reviewed at the next meeting. The Committee accepted a proposal from the Chairman concerning the derestriction of documents and agreed to revert to the question of derestriction of panel reports and decisions pursuant to those reports.
8. The Committee agreed that the secretariat should prepare a brief outline for the reviews referred to in Article 15.8
9. It was agreed to schedule the next meeting for 18-19 June 1980, subject to confirmation by the Chairman in consultation with delegations. The Committee requested the Chairman to draw up an agenda for this meeting and to circulate it three to four weeks in advance of the meeting.

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ANNEX

Participation of Observers

Taking into account the decision arrived at by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session on 28 November 1979, (document L/4905) the Committee agreed on the following procedures for the participation of observers:

1. Representatives of contracting parties which are not signatories may follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
2. Representatives of non-signatory countries not contracting parties, which participated in the multilateral trade negotiations and which are interested in following the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity, should communicate a request to the Director-General of the GATT indicating their desire to do so. The Committee shall decide on each request.
3. Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by Signatories.
4. The Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.
5. The Committee may invite, as appropriate, international organizations to follow particular issues of the Committee in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international organizations to follow particular issues within the Committee in an observer capacity shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.